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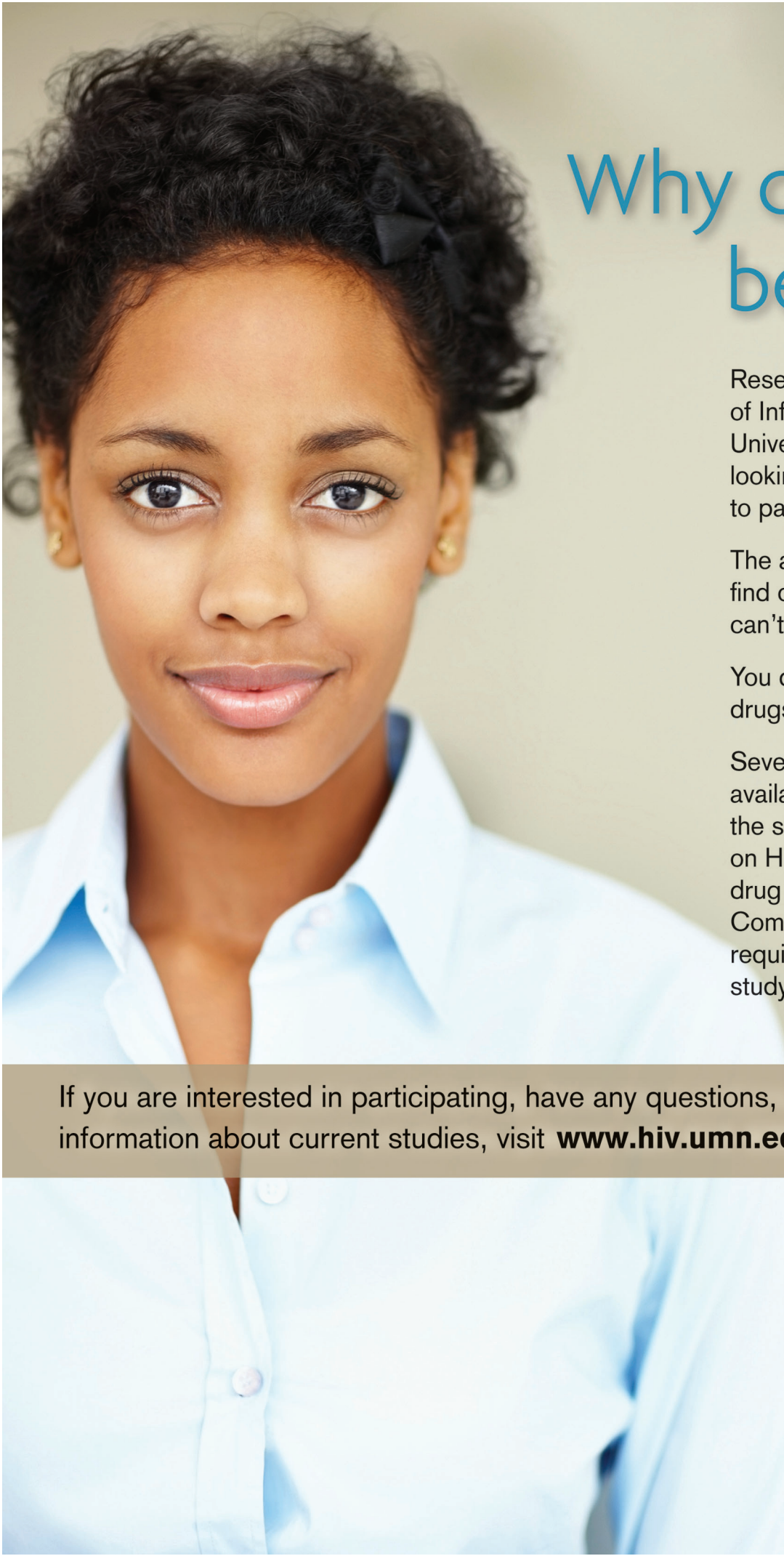


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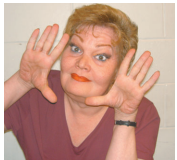
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# Lying with Statistics 101



**P**erhaps it's a quirk of the nasty weather, but crackpot theories are erupting like fungus on a decaying log.

Most recently, Paul Kix of AOL News heralded Walter Schumm's new "research," which in effect piggybacks on the homophobic scribbles of Paul Cameron, founder and chairman of the Family Research Institute. In 2006, Cameron purported to have

proof that gay parents produced gay children at a higher rate than heterosexual parents—who themselves, he failed to note, have been producing gay children since the dawn of time (or Creation, if you prefer).

It's disingenuous at best to compare percentages of any magnitude, because no accurate count exists of the number of child-rearing gay households. This year marked the first time that the US Census allowed a place on its forms for same-sex spouses who self-identify as married.

This objection holds equally for heterosexual parents of gay children: Who knows? I have adult friends who never came out to their now-deceased parents. If Mom and Dad don't know their kids are gay, neither does Schumm.

Kix reports Schumm "found it strange that parents can influence so many facets of their children's lives—but not in any way their

sexual orientation."

Given that families—liberal, moderate, or hard-shell fundamentalist—have not been able to influence the sexuality of their own gay children, it doesn't seem "strange" that gay parents have equally scant influence over the sexual orientation of their kids.

Of course, Schumm's purpose may be to try to lead his audience to believe that sexual orientation is a matter of choice rather than innate. Then, all the sturm und drang clarifies into a matter of his own agenda—a political statistics-as-a-homophobic-weapon, rather than a true anthropological, ethnological, or sociological study.

I can't divine Schumm's intended goals, but those of his predecessor, Cameron, and of the Family Research Institute, pursue the "overriding mission" to publish "empirical research on issues that threaten the traditional family, particularly homosexuality."

Suppose that one embraced simply "families," rather than "traditional family" myths—households in which GLBT and straight children all are welcomed and cherished for themselves. All the palaver would become moot, and it simply would be parents raising children.

I recommend that the reader check out an old—but still valid—work: Darrell Huff's *How to Lie with Statistics* (1954). Cameron and Schumm seem to have done so. **E.B. BOATNER**

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# Supportive Adults Need To Be Visible and Available to GLBT Youth

In light of the recent surge in teen suicides and prevalence of teen bullying, I wanted to put a call out to all adults who are supporters of GLBT youth to make themselves visible and available to kids in their communities.

I applaud all of those who have spoken in the It Gets Better Campaign, and who have broadcast their own stories to the world. Their voices are irreplaceable! For kids to hear from people who have experienced similar struggles, and survived to become happy adults, there may be nothing more helpful—except maybe an adult in their life who is willing to listen and be accepting.

When a child is surrounded by peers who don't understand; teachers and school

**I APPLAUD ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE SPOKEN IN THE IT GETS BETTER CAMPAIGN, AND WHO HAVE BROADCAST THEIR OWN STORIES TO THE WORLD. THEIR VOICES ARE IRREPLACEABLE!**

staff who are not allowed to talk about the issue of sexual orientation; and families who may be unaccepting, finding an adult they can trust to listen to and validate them may

be next to impossible.

There is a lot of pressure in our society to not discuss sexuality issues with minors. In recent years, I was employed as a youth director at a very liberal, open, and affirming Christian church. Even in this environment, I was told firmly by the copastors that I could not have one-on-one discussions with the youth.

This happened after they demanded I tell them what my conversations were with a specific member of the youth group. It so happened that this teen's parents had requested I talk with their child because of struggles with sexual identity. They were very supportive of their child, and ➔



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wanted to add another supportive adult into the conversation.

When confronted by the authoritative pastors (who, I presume, had church politics in mind), I felt obligated to tell them the topic of our talks, and I did. I was subsequently told that these conversations were not appropriate; that I was not qualified to have them; and that, therefore, I was not allowed to have further one-on-one conversations with any youth group member.

Even though the pastors were very supportive of the GLBT community, and no obvious harm or embarrassment came to anyone from doing so, I completely and wholly regret betraying this teen and the family. I will never allow myself to be intimidated into that situation again.

My point is that if someone trained at the master's level in religious leadership, in the position of youth director, upon request of parents to discuss this topic with a minor cannot do so—who can? My answer is: *all of us*.

There was no fault or harm done on my part. By letting this teen talk about fears of being labeled, bullied, and teased because of sexual orientation, I did not, as many may assume, bring up anything within the realm of sexual activity, or encourage or validate sexual behavior.

In fact, it was an opportunity to encourage responsibility, respect, and mindfulness when it came to any relationship, including romantic interests, as well as those with friends, family, peers, and especially oneself. These types of conversations are important. They may mean the difference between happiness and misery—and, as we have seen lately, even life and death.

It is our job as supportive adults to allow these kids to talk, and to let them know there are people who support them who are not offended, grossed out, disgusted, angry, or disappointed with them for their feelings. Most of all, we need to show them we are not fearful of others who may be all of that, or plain out fearful of what the political conse-

quences of talking to kids will be.

I closed an open door on an entire group of kids because someone else told me I had to. I will never do that again. In fact, I will be opening my door to anyone who needs an ear.

I am hoping the rest of you will join me. Put a Human Rights Campaign or GLBT Pride or ally sticker on your car, in the front window at your house, on the back of a binder you carry, on your shirt—anywhere to let these kids know that you are someone who will listen without judgment. Do something to advertise your acceptance to GLBT youth.

Even if you are in a position where an authority figure or family member has said you cannot discuss these things, you can quietly advertise your support to your students, young relatives, church youth, neighborhood kids, employees, patients... whoever the youth in your life might be. Let them know you are someone they can trust. And offer an ear when they request one!

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# Words Lead to Bullying and Bashing

**WHEN INDIVIDUALS LIKE NIENSTEDT, KERSTEN, BACHMAN, PAWLENTY, AND OTHERS USE THEIR WORDS AND THEIR PUBLIC POSITIONS TO DEHUMANIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE GAY AND LESBIAN, THEIR WORDS HAVE AN EFFECT.**

Words are powerful and dynamic.

I think that most people would agree that people should be responsible for the effects or impacts of their words and actions. It is illegal to shout "Fire!" in a crowded theater. If you do, you should expect to be held accountable for the stampe or injuries that occur.

Archbishop John Nienstedt, *Star Tribune* columnist Katherine Kersten, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, Governor Tim Pawlenty, and many others have been "shouting" fire for a long, long time, and have never been held accountable. They write columns, preach sermons, build political campaigns, and produce DVDs that promote separation among people, not unity; intolerance, not acceptance—and that purposefully dehumanize individuals who are gay and lesbian.

Judges across the nation routinely hand out light sentences for people who violently bash gay men and lesbians, asserting that gay people get what they deserve: daring to live an open and confident life.

These disdainful messages from individuals with access to a bully pulpit do just that—they bully.

If you preach, write, or speak hatred for Muslims, the result is that a Muslim cab driver gets stabbed in New York City, or a minister in Florida threatens to burn Muslim holy books in Florida.

*Words have effect.*

If you tell someone over and over again that they are not good enough, sooner or later, there is a substantial chance that they will come to believe that message.

When individuals like Nienstedt, Kersten, Bachman, Pawlenty, and others use their words and their public positions to de-

humanize individuals who are gay and lesbian, their words have an effect. Eventually, they give license to individuals who bash, bully, and assault and harass. People think, "If individuals in a position of legal, moral, or political authority can use their pulpits to bully, then I guess I can use my fist."

The story of Tyler Clementi, the Rutgers University student who committed suicide recently, took my breath away.

I remember being in sixth grade, and realizing that I had feelings different from most of my friends. I never thought those feelings were wrong—just different. I can still feel the spit on my face from one junior high classmate who threatened to beat me up *every day* after school. I can remember being called hateful names, and the clanging sound of the lockers that my body got bounced off of *every day* in high school. It hurt, physically and emotionally, but I told myself, "Just hang on."

And the rest of us share responsibility, too, because we are better than this. We have to be. We, as a collective citizenry, have been willing to settle for mediocrity. We have collectively created a culture that removes hope from the lives of too many individuals.

We have created a society that tells a scared, abandoned, questioning 13-year-old that his only option is to end his life. What if that 13-year-old were your son, brother, or grandson?

We allow such intolerance in our communities that we push a talented and sensitive 18-year-old to such a point of desperation, he believes his only solution is jump off a bridge.

We have got to be better than this!

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# You Are Not Alone

We, the students and staff at Avalon School in St. Paul, have been deeply disturbed by the recent rash of student suicides in neighboring districts and around the country. The *Star Tribune's* recent article "Schools Struggle with Gay Policies" brought to light how local schools are dealing with this crisis.

Anoka-Hennepin School Board Chairman Tom Heidemann's words that "these are issues that can be dealt with outside the classroom" miss the point that queer youth need a supportive school environment if they cannot find it at home or at neighborhood institutions. When none of these environments serve as spaces of refuge and affirmation, it can be suffocating and sometimes deadly.

Anoka-Hennepin School District's "neutrality" policy fails to serve its students *and* staff. Though it has been stated that the policy does not extend to hate speech or bullying of any kind, it evidently has acted as a gag when bolder action on the part of teachers was needed.

In addition, conversations with a supportive and sympathetic staff at school can literally be a saving grace for some students who are in the midst of understanding their identities. When teachers are forbidden from voicing messages of love and acceptance, what message *is* sent?

One of the reasons these recent suicides have been so disturbing to the Avalon community is because of the support we regularly feel during our middle and high school years of growth and learning.

At Avalon, being GLBT is embraced as part of the unique tapestry of the human experience. There are few instances of bullying or harassment, for any reason, and certainly none that would lead students to suicide. We have the privilege to be who we are, with no exceptions. This should be a right.

It is in this spirit that we extend a personal invitation to attend Avalon School to any middle or high school student in the metro

area who feels unsafe, unloved, or simply unwelcome in their learning community.

We at Avalon strive to create a safe space where all people can be their genuine selves in order to grow and aim for their full academic and human potential. We do not profess to be perfect, but we do make a conscious effort to build a strong community.

For those who do not have the option to attend Avalon or a similarly affirming school, know that there are organizations and spaces around the metro that offer opportunities to get support and feel part of a larger community. These include:

- District 202: <[www.dist202.org](http://www.dist202.org)>
- The Canvas Youth Center: <[www.myspace.com/thecanvas651](http://www.myspace.com/thecanvas651)>
- Out For Equity: <[www.outforequity.spps.org](http://www.outforequity.spps.org)>
- Out 4 Goo: <[sss.mpls.k12.mn.us/Out4Good.html](http://sss.mpls.k12.mn.us/Out4Good.html)>

The Internet abounds in sites like the following that offer ways to connect to the larger GLBT youth community:

- TrevorSpace: <[www.trevorspace.org](http://www.trevorspace.org)>
- The Gay Youth Corner: <[www.thegyc.com](http://www.thegyc.com)>

Dan Savage's "It Gets Better" project on YouTube provides a different way of approaching the adolescent challenges that come with being GLBT.

The bottom line is: *You are not alone.*

To reiterate Avalon student Ben Kercheval's quotation in the aforementioned *Star Tribune* article, this is not a political issue, but a human issue. Inclusion and compassion are not about pushing a political ideology, but about meeting the needs of human beings. We hope that this message will become clear to more people in the near future.

As we write this, it is October 11, National Coming Out Day. Many people live and go to school in places where they are welcome to come out, and be who they are, but many still do not. Until the basic needs for community and respect are met for everyone, remember that all are welcome at Avalon. **AVALON SCHOOL GAY-STRAIGHT-ALLIANCE**

## Catholic Church's Moral Teaching Leads to Youth Suicides

I find myself reflecting on the recent bullying stories amidst a maelstrom of political and religious fronts converging on a time when young people continue to kill themselves because our society hides behind "separation" of "church and state."

Every day, I think about a kid who as a result of attending a religious service decides that suicide is the only option to free himself from an omnipresent stifling and oppressive environment.

Every day, I read church and state separation arguments in popular media that never address the irresponsible political vitriol that accompanies religious language against the GLBTQ family.

I have also been thinking about the lack of fundamental logic that's applied to conversations about religious conviction. The quantitative evidence mounts towards the politicization of the church, yet we continue to turn a demure eye toward those in control, because "we have to respect one another's religious views"—as though religious views on hate and discrimination lie outside the purview of law.

Well, I'm tired of teenagers not fulfilling their lives because of religious speech. I'm tired of waiting around to be right, instead of creative.

Why are religious institutions that polarize and politicize left not having to pay taxes on anything, even a textbook, when they so obviously support candidates and positions couched in obsolescent terms of "moral guidance"? What is the sanity of "morally guiding" a child to suicide?

And, I ask, what is the purpose of denying everyday folks seeking communion with their God? Is a button enough to deny a sacrament? What if I wear the golden and gentle two-footed button of the antiabortion movement on my lapel? Isn't that a political statement similar to the 14 rainbow-lapel-pin-



wearing youth denied access to communion by Archbishop John Nienstadt recently at St. John's Abbey? If communion is openly provided to those who bear the lapel pin for antiabortion efforts and not viewed as political, shouldn't the proud rainbow button be treated with similar compassion?

Nienstedt, the Catholic Archbishop of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Diocese, continues to invest resources in inflaming antigay rhetoric that smacks of political support. The church, strategically, stays on the fringes of outright

## THE CHURCH HAS POLITICIZED ITS MORALITY TO THE POINT OF EXASPERATION. WHY DOESN'T ANYONE HOLD THE CHURCH UP TO THE SAME RIGOROUS TESTS OF A TAXABLE ENTITY?

and blatant candidate endorsement—yet willingly and literally condemns family members to eternal damnation who knowingly and willingly support “gay activities.”

Let me ask you this: If your mother supports both you and a Catholic candidate for office, which one do you think she has to choose if her worldview is that of Catholicism?

Deny someone with the pride to include themselves in the Catholic rites—it's a matter of morality. Deny the right of women to choose—it's a matter of morality. Openly support peace-seeking liberation theology in war-torn geographies—it's a matter of morality.

The church has politicized its morality to the point of exasperation. Why doesn't anyone hold the church up to the same rigorous tests of a taxable entity?

It's easy to attack a start-up church of whatever-is-happening-now, but what about the true institutions that underpin the social fabric that leads to kids committing suicide, or at the very least, offer complicit support through silence?

Perhaps it's time for an organization to take on the faith-based support of suicide, denial, and fear. Perhaps it's time for the next Martin Luther to pound a screed onto the door of the church. Perhaps...it's time to act. **WAYNE OLSON**

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## Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Anti-GLBT Bullying



**ON THE** evening of October 14, Join the Impact-Twin Cities coordinated a Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Anti-GLBT Bullying in Loring Park, Minneapolis. About a thousand people attended, including Tammy Aaberg, mother of Justin Aaberg, a gay student victimized by bullying who took his own life. Another candlelight vigil on October 12 at the University of Minnesota drew about 400 students.

Tammy Aaberg (left) at the Candlelight Vigil in Loring Park. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



## District 202 Zombie Halloween Party



**RISE AGAIN!**, the second annual Distict 202 Halloween Party, took place on October 23 at University Baptist Church, Minneapolis. In keeping with its '80s zombie theme, prizes were awarded for Best Zombie. Featured DJ Taskrock presided over the dancing. District 202's mission is to create safe spaces for GLBT youth and their allied friends where they can build self-confidence, self-expression, skills, and resources.

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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# Holiday Gift Guide



{ VINAIGRETTE }

**Vinaigrette**, a specialty olive-oil and vinegar retailer, offers you the unique opportunity to create a gift box of the finest items from around the world. At the store, you can sample more than 16 different kinds of vinegars, plus 10 types of extra virgin olive oils and 15 types of fused olive oils. Vinaigrette also carries a variety of olive oil-based hair and skin-care products. What sets Vinaigrette apart is its personal relationship with individual growers around the world, ensuring the highest- and purest-quality products. Gift boxes range from \$10 to \$200.

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# Holiday Gift Guide

2

1



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3



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{ J. NOVACHIS }

Well-known clothier John Novachis is the power behind this small gem of a men's shop. The finely edited **J. Novachis** collection reflects the busy lives that today's men lead. From tailored to casual, you'll find must-have brands like Zanella, Hiltl, and International Laundry; a wonderful selection of shirts from Eton; and shoes from Donald J Pliner. J. Novachis should be your first stop when you're looking for unique menswear and furnishings. Shown is a sampling: **1**- Per Pedes socks \$28 **2**- Arnold Zimberg shirt \$198 **3**- Geo H Trumper Rose Shaving Cream \$30 **4**- Bill Lavin leather belt \$85.

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# Holiday Gift Guide



{ HASKELL'S }

At **Haskell's**, wine and beer gift baskets come bowed and brimming with good cheer. They're available in many price ranges for everyone on your shopping list. Pictured is the Basket of Angels with Chateau des Mille Anges wine, which retails at \$29.99. Chateau des Mille Anges translated means "House of a Thousand Angels." For more than three centuries, work within this vineyard has had only one purpose: making wine using grapes grown in its own vineyard to produce a wine worthy of the name "Mille Anges." If you'd like to create your own basket, we can help!

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## Ideas to Deck Your Halls and Home



Looking for new inspiration for your holiday decor? Scott Ellingboe, Creative Design Consultant at Bachman's has the creativity and fresh ideas to make your home truly special. This year, relax while he creates beautiful containers, window boxes, wreaths, tree trimming, table centerpieces & arrangements.



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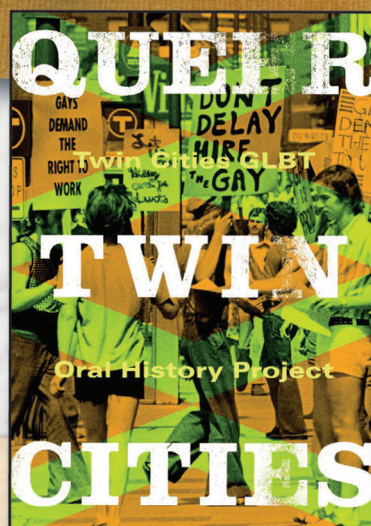
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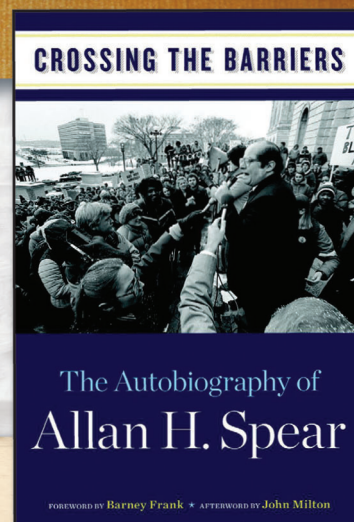
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# Share the Spirit of the Season Adopt a Holiday Basket!



The 23rd Annual Holiday Basket Program of The Aliveness Project, a community non-profit that serves Minnesotans living with HIV/AIDS, is under way. It started in 1988 as a way to help HIV-positive members celebrate the season in the face of the challenges that come with a HIV-positive diagnosis.

For some people living with HIV, stigma and discrimination make the holidays a lonely time, while others are not able to celebrate for financial reasons—more than 72 percent of the people served by the organization live in poverty.

Last year, the Holiday Basket Program delivered gifts to almost 1,500 adults and children affected by HIV/AIDS in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

One beneficiary of the holiday basket program remarked, “So many people have turned their backs on me, but you guys made me feel so much better—not just with

the gifts, but with the Christmas spirit.”

Here’s how you can help:

**Adopt a Basket** We’ll send you a wish list of an HIV-positive Minnesotan, and you shop for the gifts. You can choose to adopt the basket of a single person, a couple, or a family with children. We ask that you spend about \$35 on each member of the household. Wrap the gifts, and return to The Aliveness Project by December 17. Adoption is our greatest need!

**Donate Money** If you’re not a shopper, you still can make the holidays brighter for people living with HIV/AIDS. Simply designate your gift to the “Holiday Basket Program.”

**Donate New Goods** Host a holiday drive at work, your faith community, or school. We accept *new* clothing, small household items, toys, gift cards, nonperishable food, and hygiene items.

**Bake or Sew** Bake your favorite cookies (bag by the dozen), or sew quilts and holiday stockings, to go in gift baskets. Bring to The Aliveness Project by December 21.

**Donate Time** Hundreds of volunteers are needed to wrap presents; fill and deliver baskets; and take on other leadership roles during our Holiday Basket Program. We have short-term and long-term service opportunities for individuals, groups, and families.

**Holiday Basket Kickoff Party** Wilde Roast Café is hosting a Holiday Basket Kickoff Party on November 9, 4:30-7:30 PM. Donate a new hat or a new pair of gloves, and get a free drink. The first 25 people to donate \$100 or adopt three baskets will get a \$25 Wilde Roast Gift Card.

The Aliveness Project is at 730 East 38th Street in South Minneapolis. Call (612) 824-LIFE (5433), or visit <[www.aliveness.org](http://www.aliveness.org)> to get involved today. ■

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# THE TILE SHOP

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Photos Courtesy of Megan Hoy.

## Interview with Kirsten Froelich

Man has been a tile-using creature for more than four millennia, crafting polygons of baked clay for utilitarian and aesthetic use. Like our forebears, we continue to delight in the beauty, durability, and myriad uses of tile inside and outside our homes.

*Lavender* recently dialogued with Kirsten Froelich, The Tile Shop's Corporate Designer.

### What is The Tile Shop's background?

The Tile Shop opened in December 1984 in Rochester, Minnesota. The company has always been privately held by a local Minneapolis business owner whose passion lies in directly sourcing the finest products from around the world. Currently, there are 49 Tile Shop locations throughout the Midwest and Northeast, with six in the Twin Cities metro.

### What are some of the trends in tile today?

Glass, metal, and hardwood tiles are popular. Glass tiles add a depth, sparkle, and luminescence not found in ceramic or natural stone. Stainless steel lends a contemporary feel, while bronze or weathered metals add a timeless beauty to traditional styles. Tiles that look like hardwood are much easier to care for than real wood, and porcelain's natural resistance to moisture makes it appropriate for surfaces exposed to water.

Bath areas are being created for specific health purposes, like tiled steam showers/

baths for respiratory and sinus conditions. "De-stress" in your tiled haven, while the steam expands blood vessels, increases circulation, enhances skin tone, and revitalizes your body.

### Does The Tile Shop counsel and advise?

Absolutely! The entire staff is devoted to helping our clients complete their project from start to finish. They can answer any question or concern about any step in the tile process.

We also have free tile "how-to" classes every Saturday morning at 9:30 at each location. The class is a great introduction to the tiling process.

Our website is also a great source for product information, do-it-yourself information, how-to videos, and design inspiration.

### What different types of tile do you offer?

We carry a wide variety of natural stone, including travertine, granite, marble, slate, onyx, limestone, and sandstone. We also have a great selection of ceramic wall and floor tile, porcelain tile, glass tile, metal tile, and decorative accent pieces. Our mosaic collection includes mixes of all these types of tile.

### What about using tile as trim, or as single insertions?

It is really popular to mix material and sizes of tiles today—we call this "fusion." Using a small accent is a great way to add color

to a space. For instance, a neutral travertine shower wall can be instantly jazzed up by using a couple rows of a decorative glass mix. This is also a way to personalize your space.

### Is tile competitive with other surfaces? What are some advantages of tile?

Our tile is a great value to customers. We offer high-quality products at direct import pricing. This is a definite advantage of shopping at The Tile Shop.

Tile is a perfect surface for any area that may get wet; high-traffic areas; floors or walls needing a design element; or outside the home, around pools or on patios.

Tile is just a perfect surface for any area of the home! It does not collect dirt or germs like carpet does, and is more durable than wood flooring.

### What else would you like to share?

We have beautiful showrooms that feature fully-installed vignettes for design inspiration. Our tile board samples are quite large, so you can see the entire pattern and color variation the product may have.

Our staff is thoroughly trained to be sure that your service is above and beyond what any big-box store can offer. ■

### The Tile Shop

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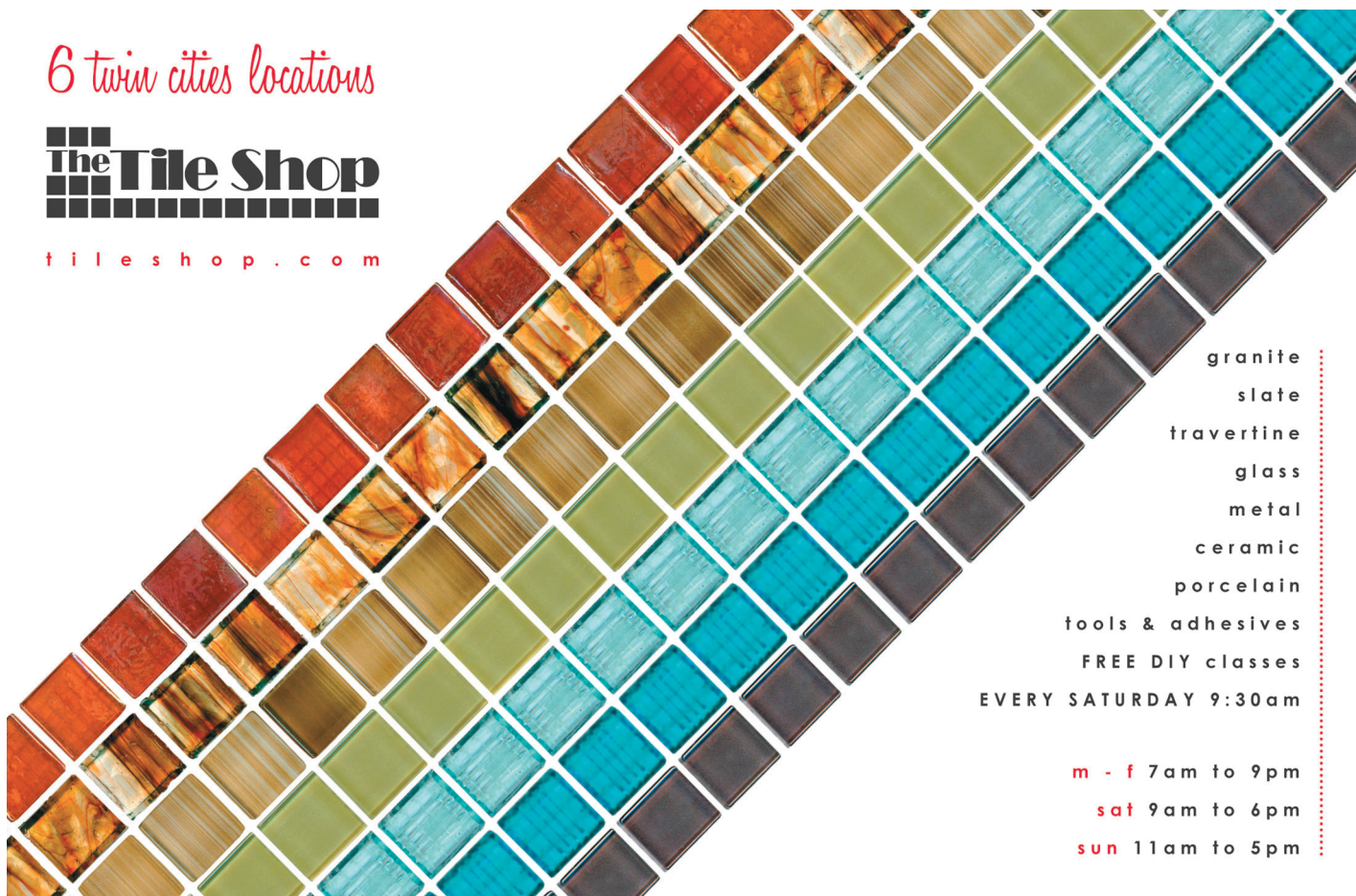
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## INDICATIONS

ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV medicine used for the treatment of HIV. **ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines**, which may increase the likelihood of response to treatment.

The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

## IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.



# I am outgoing. I am on the go. I am a newlywed. I am HIV positive.

You are special, unique, and different from anyone else. And so is your path to managing HIV. When you're ready to start HIV therapy, talk to your doctor about a medication that may fit your needs and lifestyle.

In clinical studies lasting 96 weeks, patients being treated with HIV medication for the first time who took ISENTRESS plus *Truvada*:

- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
  - The most common side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
  - This side effect occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* (4%) versus *Sustiva* plus *Truvada* (3%)
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
  - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

**Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.**

**Not sure where to start? Visit [isentress.com/questions](http://isentress.com/questions)**

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.

Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

**Need help paying for ISENTRESS?** Call 1-866-350-9232

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**Patient Information**  
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Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS<sup>1</sup> before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

**What is ISENTRESS?**

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

**ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.**

**How does ISENTRESS work?**

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
  1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
  2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

**Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?**

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

**What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?**

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
  - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
  - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
  - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:**

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

**Know the medicines you take.**

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

**How should I take ISENTRESS?**

**Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:**

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

**Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.**

**IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:**

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

**If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:**

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

**Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.**

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

**What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?**

**When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included:**

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

**Other side effects** include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**How should I store ISENTRESS?**

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

**General information about the use of ISENTRESS**

**Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.**

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

**This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.**

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to [www.ISENTRESS.com](http://www.ISENTRESS.com) or call 1-800-622-4477.

**What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?**

**Active ingredient:** Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

**Inactive ingredients:** Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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Revised June 2010  
9795110  
U.S. Patent Nos. US 7,169,780



# Nienstedt's Antigay DVD Is Bullying

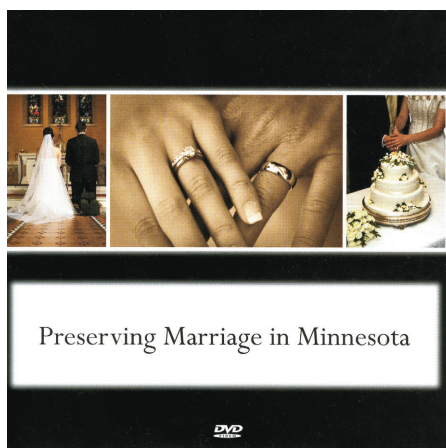
**L**ike most of you, I've had bullies on the brain lately. The stories of Justin Aaberg and the countless other teens who have taken their own lives this year not only leave me saddened, but also give me a chance to reflect.

I think about my own bullies: the handful of kids who called me "faggot" in the locker room or in the hallways between class. I think about my own bullying: the time I teased a "friend" to the point of tears. I learned a lot from both experiences. I know bullies. And I recognize bullying.

So, when I obtained one of the more than 400,000 DVDs on which Archbishop John Nienstedt implores Minnesota Catholics to support a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, I quickly was reminded that bullies don't just hang out on the playground. In fact, those bullies are just kids. Whom they pick on and why has a lot more to do with their parents, society, and the messages they get from adults.

According to the *The Oxford Pocket Dictionary of Current English*, to bully is "to use superior strength or influence to intimidate someone, typically to force him or her to do what one wants."

It's hard to see how the two-part, 18-minute, anonymously-funded DVDs could be described any other way. Nienstedt's message, wrapped in the cloak of a gentle prescription from a caring leader, fomented fear with falsehood after falsehood. Same-sex marriage somehow will lead to fatherlessness; family fragmentation; and—that evil



of all evils—single-woman parenthood.

I still haven't figured out the math on the last one. Two fathers creates more single mothers? Water into wine?

The pseudodocumentary from that stalwart of social science, the Knights of Columbus, ups the intimidation ante in the second half of the DVD with blatant lies and less-than-clever distortions about the impact of same-sex marriage on society. Pseudo-social-scientists casually ignore the breadth of research showing kids of gays and lesbian couples do just as well, if not better, than those raised by heterosexuals.

One woefully misinformed "expert" even invokes the ghost of Martin Luther King Jr. to make this point: If you don't vote for a state constitutional ban on gay marriage, Minnesota Catholics, society will fail, and

the world as you know it will be destroyed forever. And ever. And ever! Oh, and Jesus and King are going to come back, and they're not going to be happy.

Thankfully, many Catholics have spoken out against Nienstedt and the DVD campaign, including brave Father Michael Tegeder, Pastor of St. Edward's Church in Bloomington. In a recent editorial, he wrote, "There's a lot of ignorance, and ignorance breeds fear and intolerance." He goes on to remind Nienstedt that study after study has shown poverty dissolves many more marriages than same-sex couples ever did or will.

It's easy for me, as an educated, critically-thinking adult, to reject Nienstedt's arguments about same-sex marriage. Quite frankly, it's easy for me to laugh at them, and hope that at some point, *Saturday Night Live* turns the thing into comedy gold.

While it's easy for adults like me, think of children. Think of the tens if not hundreds of thousands of kids across the state who will watch this video, either unintentionally, or at the behest of their "concerned" parents, schoolteachers, or priests. Some will believe the lies it slyly tries to offer as truth.

Ultimately, gay kids will have yet one more reason to hate themselves, and bullies will have one more reason to attack their victims.

I'm pretty sure it's just this kind of callous disregard for love and tolerance that once led Gandhi to exclaim, "I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

Amen. **BRADLEY TRAYNOR**

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## BIG GAY NEWS

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## NATIONAL

### PENTAGON ISSUES NEW ORDER ON GAY DISMISSALS

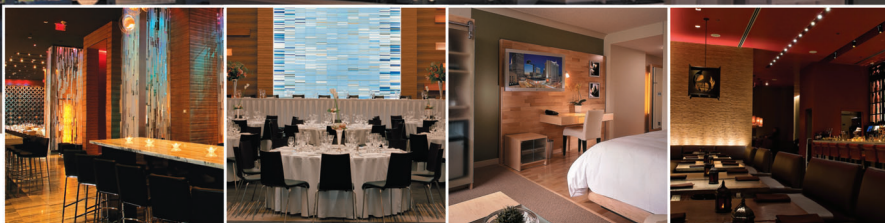
US Defense Secretary Robert Gates issued new guidelines regarding the military's recently reinstated ban on openly gay service members. The procedural change requires all discharges to be decided by senior civilian officials. The secretary of the branch in question will have to meet with a senior Pentagon lawyer and an undersecretary of personnel before the final decision is made. Gates's memo announced that the change will be in place "until further notice."

### CHOI SAYS OBAMA PLAYING POLITICS ON DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

AOL reports that gay Iraq War veteran Dan Choi, who tried to reenlist in the military in October—prior to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision temporarily to stay a lower court's lifting of the military's ban on openly gay soldiers—is criticizing the Obama Administration for its handling of the issue. President Barack Obama has stated that he opposes Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but the Justice Department is defending it in court. Choi told C-SPAN, "President Obama is playing politics. There's no reason you should force people to lie to serve their country." Choi, a graduate of West Point, and an Arab linguist who served in Iraq, was discharged last year after publicly coming out.

### OBAMA TO BULLIED GAY KIDS: "YOU ARE NOT ALONE"

President Barack Obama added his voice to the It Gets Better Campaign in October, letting gay kids and other victims of bullying know that they're not alone, and that ultimately, things do get better. He said, "I don't know what it is like to be picked on for being gay, but I do know what it is like to grow up feeling that sometimes, you don't belong. It is tough." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recorded a similar video earlier in the month. The ItGetsBetterProject garnered more than 10 million visits on YouTube in the first four weeks after it was set up.



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## LAWYERS SAY ATLANTA POLICE ERASED DATA IN GAY BAR RAID

According to lawyers, Atlanta police allegedly erased and destroyed evidence after a controversial raid on the Atlanta Eagle last year. The suit brought by the bar accuses police of erasing text messages, e-mails, and pictures related to the incident. During the raid, officers searched about five-dozen bar patrons, some of whom were forced down on the sidewalk and handcuffed, while officers shouted antigay slurs at them. City officials responded to the lawsuit, saying they are taking the allegations seriously, and will initiate an investigation.

## WORLD ●

## COURT CONDEMNS MOSCOW GAY PRIDE BANS

The Associated Press reports that the European Court of Human Rights condemned Russia for letting Moscow ban Gay Pride marches simply because officials don't like gay and lesbian people. It ordered Russia to pay Gay Pride organizers more than \$41,000 in damages and court costs. The court's rulings are binding, so Russia now must ensure that Gay Pride parades can be held freely throughout the country. Russian activist Nikolay Alekseyev brought the cases over the past few years.

## UGANDAN PAPER PUBLISHES PHOTOS OF GAY MEN

According to the Associated Press, the Ugandan newspaper *Rolling Stone* published a list of the country's 100 "top" homosexuals that included the men's photographs and names. A graphic across the top of the article said, "Hang Them!" Since its publication in early October, at least four gay men have been attacked, and, according to human rights advocates, many are in hiding. The article not only names the men, but also claims that a deadly disease is attacking gay men in Uganda, and that gay men are recruiting a million children by raiding the country's schools. **WRITTEN & COMPILED BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR**

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*A Disappearing Number*. Photo by Stephanie Berger

***A Disappearing Number* • Nov. 6 • Guthrie Theater • 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls • (612) 377-2224 • [www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)**

Though the Twin Cities is a theater mecca, it's impossible to have local productions of all the major plays available. Thankfully, you now can go to the Guthrie periodically to catch a high-def transmission of a London show that won't tour here. The next *NT Live* offering is the only Upper Midwest screening of the United Kingdom's National Theatre staging of *A Disappearing Number*. Simon McBurney's play, which has been an international hit for two years, will be revived in London and Tokyo later this year. It's about unlikely love between a great mathematician and a penniless Indian Brahmin.

***My Name is Asher Lev***  
Through Nov. 7

Hillcrest Center Theater  
1978 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul  
(651) 647-4315  
[www.mnjewishtheater.org](http://www.mnjewishtheater.org)

The heretical conflict: a devoutly-raised Jewish youth is interested in Jesus, crucifixions, and nudes.

The scene where elderly Jewish mentor Jacob (David Coral) tells young painter Asher Lev (Logan Verdoon) that he must reject totally the unquestioning rigidity of his Hasidic upbringing is one of the most spellbinding I've seen in years.

But then, this entire riveting production, directed by Miriam Monasch, exudes great scenes. The splendidly endearing Verdoon deeply manifests the struggle of



*Spring Awakening*. Photo by Joan Marcus.

anyone of any suffocating tradition who must choose either to break out or utterly to be destroyed. Coral and the poignant Elena Giannetti

crackle in various roles.

Aaro Posner powerfully has adapted Chaim Potok's acclaimed biographical novel for the stage.

***Spring Awakening***  
Nov. 6-7

Orpheum Theatre  
910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.  
(800) 982-2787  
[www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org)

It has been 120 years since Germany's Frank Wedekind wrote the watershed drama upon which this enthralling 2006 rock-musical adaptation is based.

This bold inquiry into adolescent sexuality has chilling resonance with today's headlines about gay teen suicides, and Tea Party

candidates calling for banning sexually-active women from teaching and contraception.

Still astounding are its depictions of tender gay love; destructive ways in which girls often are misinformed about sexuality; and ignorance about masturbation.

For those who think they won't care for the rock concept in preference to the original, think again. Composer Duncan Sheik makes it work magnificently. It won eight Tonys for a reason.



*Evita*. Photo by George Byron Griffiths

***Evita***  
Through Nov. 14

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts  
345 Washington St., St. Paul  
(651) 224-4222  
[www.ordway.org](http://www.ordway.org)

Theater Latte Da director Peter Rothstein and his astonishing lead actress, Zoe Pappas, ingeniously have navigated the paradoxes in this towering, political, music-drama classic.

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice shape Eva Peron as a vindictive megalomaniac with rage toward upper-class arrogance. Ironically, once "Evita" and her husband, General Juan Peron (portrayed by magnetic Kevin Leines), seize power, they loot Argentina's treasury in the name of "the people" and unions.

However, this numinous production elicits the humanity between the lyrics and within them. The ruthless language of political imaging and propaganda sears through Rice's lyrics, realized viscerally through Denise Prosek's music direction.

Jessica Frederickson devastates as The Mistress victimized by the Perons's ambition. A fierce Jared





10 Virgins. Photo Courtesy of Theatre Unbound

Oxborough compels as narrator Che Guevara.

Michael Matthew Ferrell's choreography, matched with Rich Hamson's costumes, which cryptically dress the brilliant ensemble, create menacingly beautiful formations on Rick Polenek's stately set.

This breathtaking and hauntingly-majestic production vastly outdistance the Madonna film version.

#### 10 Virgins Through Nov. 21

Lowry Lab  
350 St. Peter St., St. Paul  
(612) 721-1186  
www.theatreunbound.com

Congratulations to Theatre Unbound (TU) and Artistic Director Stacey Poirier for beginning their second decade. It is now the longest-running women's theater in Minnesota history, surpassing At the Foot of the Mountain (AFM), led by Artistic Director Martha Boesing from 1974 to 1984.

Synchronistically, TU's upcoming show is reminiscent of the mystical fare AFM often produced. Laura Jacqmin's *10 Virgins* is set in a mythical realm, with marionettes made by Sarah Schmidt Boldon.

Director Natalie Nocacek says, "In the man-free world where our virgins live, there are many questions about what makes a man and what roles men play. When Marchen [Delta Giordano] has a dream of what's underneath the skirts of the witch of the bog, Jenny Greenteeth [Julie Ann Nevill], she befriends her in the hope that she can learn more about men and the world outside the swamp. Jenny, interested in developing a masculine relationship with Marchen and her sisters, plays at being father. When that fails, Jenny takes on a male lover's persona, and deflowers our eldest virgin." **JOHN TOWNSEND**



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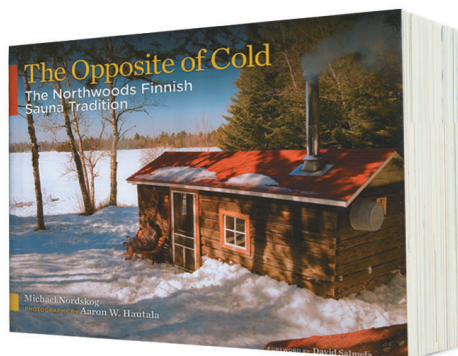
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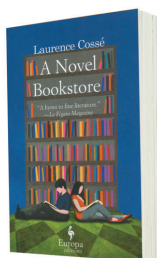


### **The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition**

**MICHAEL NORDSKOG; AARON W. HAUTALA, PHOTOGRAPHY**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS • \$34.95

A glorious holiday gift for any Finnish or sauna-loving friends (or for yourself), *The Opposite of Cold* traces in loving detail the history of the sauna—its arrival and practice in North America. The book richly is illustrated with black-and-white historical photos and 167 enticing color images. Far from a unique, antiquated activity, sauna still is part of many people's lives in the areas covered here (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, and Finland). The Duluth Family Sauna, built in 1923, is a place that keeps the tradition alive today. An entire chapter is devoted to modern sauna designs, and "Keeping the Wood-Fired Sauna Tradition Alive." "Finland's Sauna Culture" makes clear to the skeptic the wealth of health and social benefits of the sauna. And yes, though not de rigueur either among Finnish bathers or new practitioners, some follow winter saunas with a plunge through a sawn ice hole into the frigid waters—"perhaps," Nordskog notes, "the most feared and the most respected activity of sauna culture."

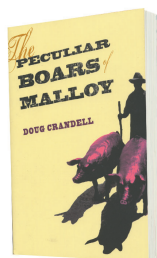
**E.B. BOATNER**



### **A Novel Bookstore**

**LAURENCE COSSÉ**  
EUROPA EDITIONS • \$15

It's curious, intricate, and very *French* sort of mystery. Two kindred (yet disparate) souls, Ivan and Francesca, start a unique sort of bookstore at 9bis rue Dupuytren, Paris, near the Odéon. This shop, *The Good Novel*, will consist only of "splendid" books, whatever era or country, paying no mind to the seasonal blockbuster offerings of the big publishing houses (unless one of them should happen to publish a "splendid" work). The books are chosen by a secret committee of eight, unknown to one another, whose lists are combined and updated, continually furnishing "good novels" to *The Good Novel*. The idea catches fire with the cream of the reading public, but also ignites a fire under the publishers and booksellers touting blockbusters. Written attacks are made upon "elitism," and physical attacks upon several of the committee. Cossé weaves a fantastical yet believable tale from threads of envy, hope, love, and unrequited love. Plus, as detective Heffner notes, the case requires "a dead body." **E.B. BOATNER**

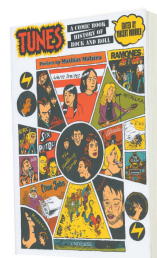


### **The Peculiar Boars of Malloy**

**DOUG CRANDELL**  
SWITCHGRASS BOOKS • \$13.95

Funny, peculiar, and cautionary, Crandell's paean to the hysterical nature of humankind is the tale of two boars acquired as inseminators for a Midwestern hog farm. However, they have eyes only for each another. The farmer, a diminutive man, and parent of the teen narrator, has been a hapless failure since his own school days, a laughingstock in the eyes of the town and his family—in particular his son, whose life's duty is picking up after the follies of his parents. Ridiculed as the owner of homosexual boars, the father becomes totally deranged, hiding out in the cornfields. Sentence by sentence, page by page, *The Peculiar Boars of Malloy* becomes darker and more ludicrous, until the tiny town of Malloy is thronged by mobs of press and anti-gay-porker citizenry, overflowed by media helicopters. The humor and poignancy are followed inevitably by chastisement and death. Intrigued? Then look up Crandell's *The Flawless Skin of Ugly People* and *Hairdos of the Mildly Depressed*.

**E.B. BOATNER**



### **Tunes: A Comic Book History of Rock and Roll**

**ED. VINCENT BRUNNER**  
UNIVERSE • \$24.95

Here's a stunning graphic overview of the more-than-half-century history of Rock and Roll, linking portraits, bios, and a graphic story with the artists as protagonists. Brunner is a journalist immersed in music and comics. Mathias Maizieu, Dionysos's lead singer, penned the edgy introduction: "On the menu: thinly sliced Pixies with a drizzle of Nirvana, and a hint of a tidal wave; some crisp Nick Drake and an electrifying scoop of AC/DC, and other blood-red pastries, with a dab of White Stripes." The energetic prose and dizzying cartoon treatment of the stories, combined with the biographies, appeal—whether you grew up on Little Richard's "Tutti Frutti" in the 1950s, or LCD Soundsystem's "I'm Losing My Edge" in the 2000s. Among many others, the Kinks, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Elvis Presley are all here. *A-wop-bop-aloo-bop-a-lop-bam-boom!*

**E.B. BOATNER**



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### Write About Love BELLE AND SEBASTIAN

Scotland's twee-meisters continue to forge a sound that moves far afield from the somber pop of their first albums. Oh, this album still has plenty of dour emotional moments, but the music elevates the evolution heard on *The Life Pursuit* to another level. The band is now as comfortable crafting slightly-askew, 1960s-style pop as anything, e.g., in the could-be-a-Kinks-outtake "I'm Not Living in the Real World." Even the more contemplative (i.e., classic Belle and Sebastian) "The Ghost of Rockschoool" adds trumpet and flute to create a richer sound that only helps to underscore the song's sad-but-wistful tone. At times, the band cuts it a little close, and ends up sounding like the modern rock and pop acts they've inspired over the past 15 years. Then again, even Belle & Sebastian-by-numbers (the opener "I Didn't See It Coming," for example) is better than plenty of the music from groups inspired by this band. **ED HUYCK**



### Record Collection MARK RONSON AND THE BUSINESS INTL.

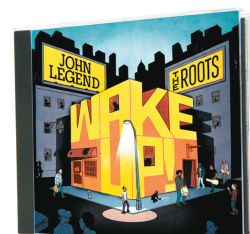
I was happy to leave the 1980s behind, but at every turn, I seem to be reminded of how "cool" the decade was supposed to be. It wasn't. Still, at least Mark Ronson recognizes that the cool doesn't come from hairstyles or leg warmers, but rather from the decade's generally-odd mixture of pop music, where power ballads could sit side-by-side on the top of the charts with Taco's "Puttin' on the Ritz." On *Record Collection*, Ronson and his bandmates put together a driving collection of not-quite-sound-alike pop and dance tunes that are, more often than not, fun and memorable. That can come in the guise of the driving vocals on "You Gave Me Nothing"; the off-kilter synthesizers on "Glass Mountain"; or the Prince-like funk of opener "Bang Bang Bang." Ronson works with a bevy of guests here, but in the end, it's all about his own odd-but-engaging vision.

**ED HUYCK**



### To All My Friends/Blood Matters ATMOSPHERE

Atmosphere's double EP thingy—really, in my world, 12 songs and 41 minutes equal an album, but oh, well—finds the local Hip-Hop act exuding supreme confidence. And why not? The group, which has been riding high for years, only goes from strength to strength here. Atmosphere always has been about ground-level, blue-collar rap. The characters here are obsessed with everyday problems: getting to work on time, wondering if the car will start, or where the money is going to come from to pay the bills. Even pieces that explore the darker side of life ("The Major Leagues") describe a low-level, shady deal. Economic issues are present throughout—again, not a surprise—as the collision between a dream life and the reality of living day to day. That comes into perfect focus on "Freefallin'," where the dream to quit a worthless job runs into the knowledge that plenty of folks would love to take your space. **ED HUYCK**



### Wake Up! JOHN LEGEND AND THE ROOTS

Leave it to John Legend and the Roots to make a throwback socially-conscious soul album. After all, both Legend and the Roots have built their reputation on high-class musical stylings that are out of step with the modern currents of R&B and Hip-Hop. Musically, much of *Wake Up!* sounds like a lost Marvin Gaye album, with strings and soulful backup singers riding behind the funky beats. That the Roots are the rare Hip-Hop act playing their own instruments is certainly a bonus here. Other moments sound more modern—especially the rapping—but even then, a nice bit of analog grit gives the music more traction than the rarified, perfect air of most modern cuts. Legend has a strong, soulful voice that he twists and bends to a song's needs. The selections—old and new—are strong throughout, with the highlight a stunning version of Bill Withers's cutting Vietnam-Era track "I Can't Write Left Handed."

**ED HUYCK**



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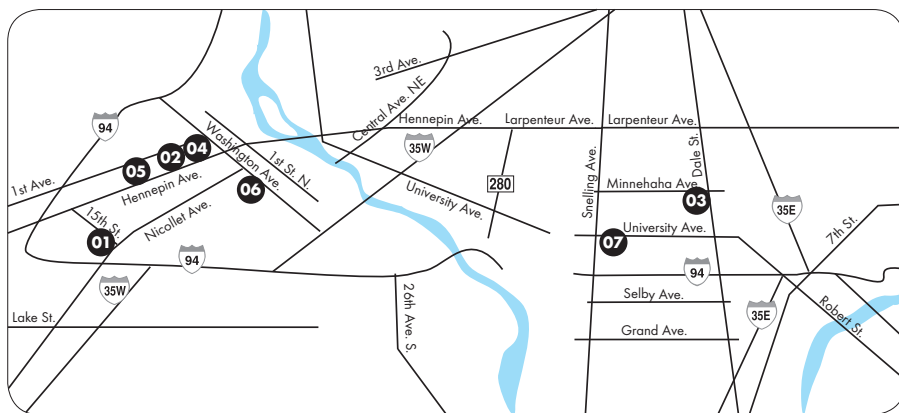


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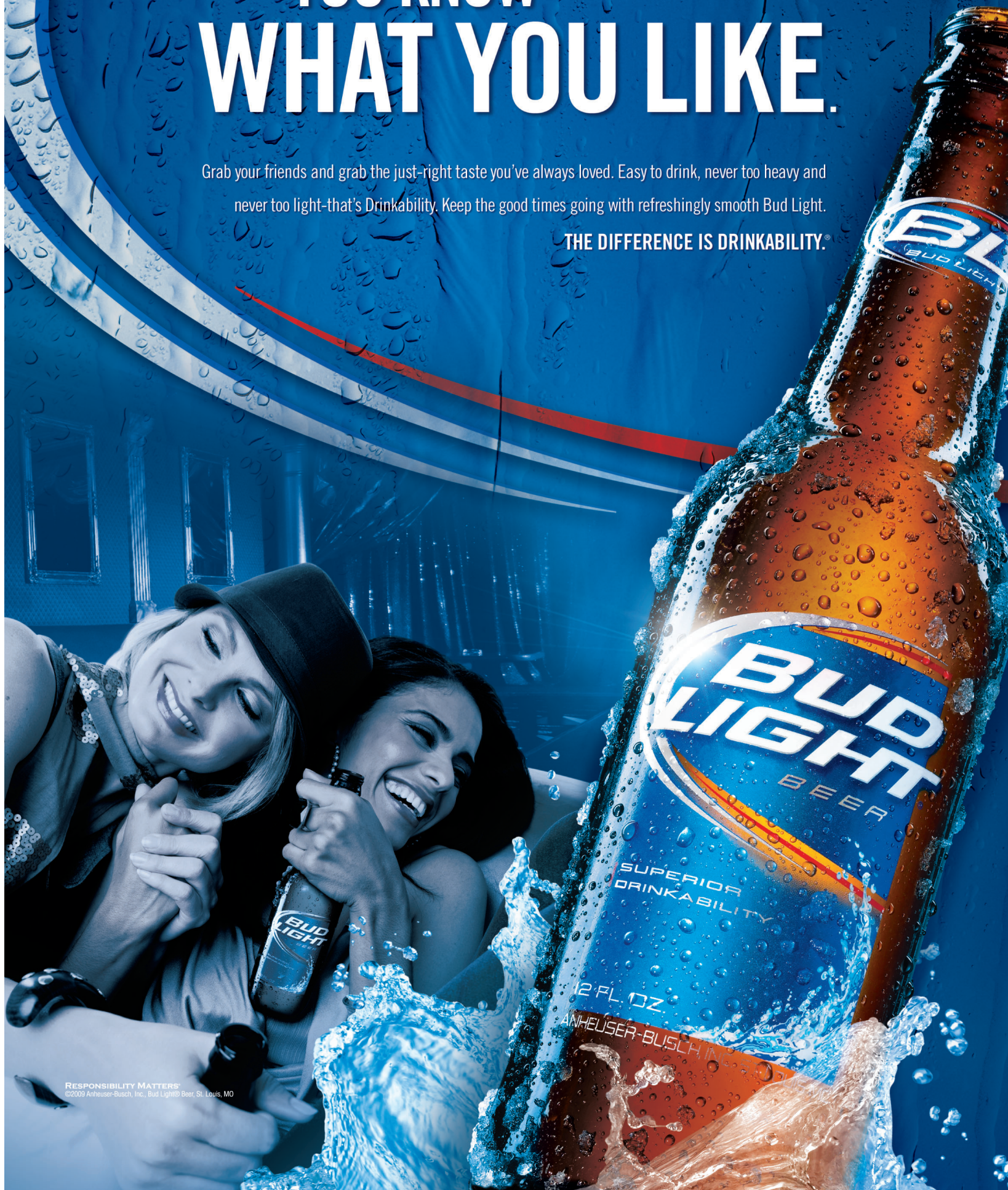
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# Last Call at Rumours/Innuendo



Rumours nightclub and Innuendo pub at 213 East Fourth Street in Downtown St. Paul closed their doors permanently on October 30. Innuendo opened in May 2007, and Rumours debuted in October 2008.

Sean and Jim Fetterman, who owned both establishments, explained, "As most of you know, the light rail construction has been a strain on businesses affected on Fourth Street in St. Paul. We have attempted to work with the light rail project on time frames, communication, and alternatives to continue to serve our guests.

"Although there have been bright spots and glimmers of hope to see an end to the work, we have decided that we cannot continue to engage in this uphill battle to provide a clear path to our business, and limit interruption to our guest experience.

"The construction project began three months ahead of schedule, leaving us three

weeks to create plans to notify and provide communication to our guests. In addition, the project has continually been pushed back, and communication on 'what's next' has been unclear and, at times, nonexistent."

Reflecting on their experience of owning Rumours/Innuendo, the Fettermans shared, "We want you to know that we have had a great time over the last almost four years, that business was really 'rockin' strong' until this point of the light rail project, and that our decision to close down was due to construction of the light rail only. It was a tough decision for us to make, but one that we put a great deal of thought and consideration into.

"Our staff, managers, and partner groups provided a fun and friendly atmosphere where everyone felt like they could come and partake in the experience. We want to thank each of the staff members, and want you to help support them as they move on

from Rumours and Innuendo. They have been the most incredible staff anyone could ever hope to have!"

Rumours and Innuendo built a solid reputation of supporting a bevy of GLBT community organizations in their fundraising efforts.

The Fettermans remarked, "Over the last four years, we have had the pleasure of working with so many groups and local nonprofits. We would like to thank you all for working with us, and wish you the best of luck as you continue to do your good work for the community.

"Our thanks go out to our partner groups: the Minneapolis Movie Bears; The Cockpit Minneapolis; the Minnesota Storm Patrol; The Atons; the Mayhem Rugby Team; the Guys and Dolls Show and crew; the Seduction Show and crew; the Get Bent Kings Show and crew; St. Paul Soul; the Imperial Court of Minnesota; and the North Star Gay Rodeo Association." **GEORGE HOLDGRAFER**

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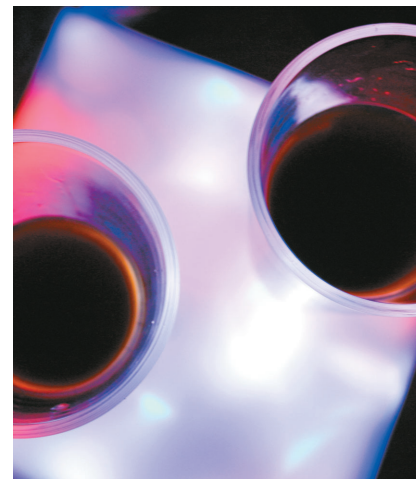
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## BAR CALENDAR

For club addresses, phone numbers, and Web sites, see "Bar Advertiser Guide" on page 36. For events not at bars, see <LavenderMagazine.com/calendar>.



### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

**Lip Service**  
9 PM. Town House.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**Triangle of Hope 15th Anniversary Show**  
5 PM. Town House.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**YOLO**  
9 PM. Town House.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**The Black Guard of Minneapolis**  
**Chili Feed**  
3 PM. Happy Hour Bar. Gay 90's.  
**Scottie Romfo's Comedy Show**  
Benefits Emergency Foodshelf Network  
6 PM. Gay 90's.  
**TNT Show**  
9 PM. Town House.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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I don't know if it was a help or  
a hindrance that I took a Greek  
foodie with me to Christos, but  
I knew I'd enjoy the ride.

# CHRISTOS

SERVES LOVELY FOOD FROM THE LAND OF LOVE GODDESS APHRODITE

**T**he Greeks and the Jews have a lot in common, perhaps even shared bloodlines if you accept the theories espoused on The History Channel. The food of the two cultures admittedly is dissimilar, yet when you consider dietary laws and access to ingredients, I feel the disparity is negligible, anthropologically speaking.

Greek food, like the Jewish food of my childhood, is passionate, unapologetic, and intense. The Greeks prefer their flavors to be bold, and to work together by balancing out varying extremes. A Greek dish is like a fascinating food argument with no losers...and no one can appreciate that like a Jew. Despite our petty culinary differences, we both like our garlic heavy, and our meat on the gamey side.

I don't know if it was a help or a hindrance that I took a Greek foodie with me to Christos, but I knew I'd enjoy the ride.

Christos presents food from Cyprus, the land of Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love. It was the first Greek food I ever had when I moved to the Twin Cities, and I knew from the first bite that I was in love.

My dining partner and I started out simply, with a plate of Hummus (\$6.35). Cypriot hummus differs from that of continental Greece because of a heavier Arabic influence, which favors the addition of sesame paste for a darker taste and a more textured spread.

A glass of full-bodied Aphrodite (\$7/\$28) or the crisper, tropical Santorini (\$7/\$28) was heaven with both the hummus and the jaw-dropping Calamari (\$7.95). If you have it in your heart to appreciate fully this mollusk, try it here. The pale, fleshy pieces are large, sensual, and delicately curved—reminiscent, if I may say so, of Aphrodite herself, who is said to have emerged naked from the white foam of the sea at Cyprus. ➔

Mediterranean Mussels. Photos by Hubert Bonnet



(Clockwise from left) Mediterranean Mussels; Chicken Ke Bab; Rack of Lamb.



## It was the first Greek food I ever had when I moved to the Twin Cities, and I knew from the first bite that I was in love.

This divine dish was a difficult act to follow. However, the Saganaki (\$8.95)—kasseri cheese flaming tableside, then cooled with a splash of lemon—definitely held its own. “One can’t go wrong with a big plate of melted cheese” isn’t an old adage, but it should be. If this expression ever makes it into the lexicon of popular phrases, I intend to share partial credit with Christos for its usage.

My Greek friend started out the evening with every intention of remaining loyal to his mother’s traditional cooking, and rightly so. It took something a little more intricate to win his admiration—like the Spanikopita appetizer (\$6.35). Spinach, feta, dill, and scallions are wrapped in delicate, buttery phyllo pastry, then baked into a tidy little pocket. The result is fresh yet comforting, a middle ground of


healthy and decadent, naughty and nice. Even the Greek had to concede the point.

Christos features three fresh soups daily. We tried a bit of Avgolemono, a traditional egg-lemon soup (\$2.75/\$5.35). If you haven’t had this soup, and couldn’t imagine such a broth, it’s partially what inspired my introduction. The traditional recipe varies—some Greeks make more of a stew, using the egg-lemon broth like hollandaise over chicken or lamb. This version was definitely toward the brothy side, with a bit of rice at the bottom for substance.

Much to my amusement, our kind and exceedingly patient server kept trying to “correct” my friend’s pronunciation of his childhood dish. For the record, and for the ease of those ordering, the clumsily named dish is pronounced “ahv-ghoh-leh-moh-no”—with the stress falling precisely in the same spot as one places it when referring to Big Bird’s imaginary, and probably Greek, friend, Snuffleupagus.

Both Greek and Jew were thrilled to merit the Rack of Lamb special (\$26.95) for our entrée, which consisted of eight beauti- ➞






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## CUISINE ♦ OFF THE EATEN PATH

ful, tender, medium-rare lamb lollipops. The flavor gets stronger when you approach the bone, and I could not resist giving at least one a good gnaw. With our lamb, we sipped Othello (\$7/\$28), which is a dry yet fruity red, hailing from Cyprus.

Following our entrée was a light Greek Salad (\$5.95/\$9.95) of capers, feta, romaine, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, and olives. Those refreshing bites easily could have served as my dessert, but in the interest of being thorough, we tried Milopita (\$3.95), an apple, ricotta, and cream cheese pastry. Greek desserts can be very sweet, but a mug of strong coffee can help make it more palatable for those born without a functioning sweet tooth.

Christos has three locations: South Minneapolis on Nicollet Avenue ("Eat Street"); Downtown St. Paul in Union Depot; and Minnetonka. However, I always have been a fan of the Minneapolis one. It's unpretentious and very family-friendly, yet strangely relaxing and at night—dare I say?—romantic.

My evening at Christos was bittersweet—my date was departing for an exciting work opportunity out of the country, and neither

of us knows how long he'll be gone. However, I didn't feel too terribly embarrassed about my misty eyes. It's a Greek restaurant, after all. So, I couldn't have been the first to become emotional at a table, and then proceed to wolf down meat. **HEIDI FELLNER**




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Village Salad (left); Ice Cream Torte.



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# PAMPLONA

If you're determined to exercise your machismo, head to Pamplona for July's week-long running of the bulls. You'll be in the frenzied company of up to 9,000 others on the path. However, if you agree that enjoying the accompanying *Animal House* atmosphere is, um, bull, sign up to visit Pamplona the other 51 weeks of the year.

You won't be the first such tourist. The Romans built a garrison here in 75 AD—Pamplona is named after a Roman general, Pompey—and awesome traces still remain. The city's cathedral stands on the site of a former Roman temple, and the Roman walls still guard the city. Beyond the walls today sprawl panoramic garden parks, earning Pamplona claim to be the greenest city in all Spain. Not far from town, wineries flourish where the Roman invaders once transplanted grapes from home.

In Pamplona's museum, the Museo de Navarra, excavated Roman treasures shine, from intricate mosaic floors and sturdy statuary to elaborate belt buckles. This exemplary establishment treads through the region's history with art from the Middle Ages, painted Gothic saints bearing gold-platter halos, and a precious Goya masterpiece. In the adjoining chapel of this former convent/hospital, glittering Medieval altarpieces portray the life of Jesus in comic-book-frame fashion to bring the message to the multitudes unblest with reading skills. A present-day gallery of sociopolitical art does the same.

Where Romans forged, Christians followed—notably the apostle St. James (Santiago) the Greater, whose mission was to spread the word to heathens. Ever since the Middle Ages, when his remains were discovered here in Northern Spain, pilgrims from all nations have followed trails to the cathedral dedicated to him in Santiago. Pam-



(Above) Baroque City Hall; (below) Cathedral.





(Clockwise from above left) Cathedral of Pamplona; Caballo Blanco; scallops dish. Photos Courtesy of City of Pamplona

## THE ROMANS BUILT A GARRISON HERE IN 75 AD—PAMPLONA IS NAMED AFTER A ROMAN GENERAL, POMPEY—**AND AWESOME TRACES STILL REMAIN.**

plona, where the trail disgorges hikers from a pass through the Pyrenees Mountains, has flourished as a major holy (thus, tourist) stop along the way. Feet groaning, bearing backpacks and walking sticks, they pay obeisance in the mighty cathedral. Next, they go to Romanesque fort-church San Nicolas. Finally, they visit San Saturnino, with its split-identity chapels, one delicately Gothic and the other overblown Baroque.

Pilgrims seek a hostel for the night, where we found cousins Kourtney and McGuire, 32 and 35 respectively, from Winnipeg, massaging each other's feet, as they shared the reasons for their monthlong, 25-kilometer-per-day hike, in company with their mother and aunt. The cousins agreed, "It's more a spiritual than a religious quest for us. We have friends who did this, and we wanted what they had: no luxuries, a chance to pare down. You go through layers, like an onion, peeling back to the new you."

Following the yellow arrows that mark the 800-mile trail in the countryside, we encountered more pilgrims at the remote 12th-Century chapel of Eonate, which, most prob-

ably, the secretive Knights Templar built as their burial ground. Our guide, Francisco, declared, "Maybe, maybe not, but definitely a center of spiritual energy, like Stonehenge or Machu Picchu."

Pilgrims of another stripe—the devotees of Ernest Hemingway, an ardent enthusiast of Sanfermines, AKA the running of the bulls—brought Pamplona to the world's attention. Gertrude Stein had told him, "Go to Pamplona, and you'll no longer be a journalist—you'll be a writer." He listened, and the magic worked. These days, fans can follow his trail any day of the year, starting, as we did, at the five-star Hotel La Perla, where his room, 207, is kept as it was when he watched the Sanfermines from his balcony. Stop in next door at Bar Iruna to snag his favorite window table, shared with Hollywood's Ava Gardner and Orson Welles when they brought his novel *The Sun Also Rises* to the screen in 1957.

A statue of Hemingway anchors Pamplona's bullring—the third largest in the world—where we peeped into the matador chapel, and, conveniently across the hall, the emer-

gency room. Pop for a ticket in Box 2, Hemingway's seat, to cheer for supergay matador José Tomas in his oh-so-silky, tight-fitting pants. Head afterward to Nicolette's, the city's hottest gay bar, for the chance of a glimpse. Check out [www.navarrafriendly.com](http://www.navarrafriendly.com) for other happening gayborhood hangouts.

As Hemingway famously gushed, Sanfermines represents two wild animals, man and beast, running together. The actual half-mile event is the ultimate in democracy—just show up, and stay ahead of the thundering herd. It's a young man's (also, male menopausal) rite of passage, but don't let your mamas know, or they'll fret. Francisco, our guide, floated white lies: "I'd say I was going out for breakfast. 'Be careful,' my mother would say. 'Call me after.'"

Breakfast? Make it café con leche at the Iruna. For later on, Pamplona has an amazingly-rich treasury of dining options, both traditional and modern, including three restaurants boasting coveted Michelin stars.

Sunday at 4 PM is lunchtime in Spain. Cheery Bar Ina was as closely packed with customers as the sardines on its menu, ➔





(Clockwise from left) Traditional dance; old street; Festival of San Fermín (Sanfermines) in Pamplona.

## CHEER FOR SUPERGAY MATADOR JOSÉ TOMAS IN HIS OH-SO-SILKY, TIGHT-FITTING PANTS. HEAD AFTERWARD TO NICOLETTE'S, THE CITY'S HOTTEST GAY BAR.

and they jointly created a cloud of tobacco that made volcanic ash seem petty. Like a bucket crew, they passed plates from the counter to waiting diners. My bill for three tapas and a glass of vino tinto? Nine euros. I love Spain!

Tapas turned elegant at nearby Baserri, winner of this year's tapas competition for its Rubic's Cube, a glittering composition of jellied vegetable essences. At Gaucho, we inhaled last year's winner, Salmon Three Ways—cold, tepid, and warm in layers—plus foie gras melting onto toast fingers. Heaven! At Bistronomia ("bistro + gastronomía"), a hypertrendy outpost, we sampled a pot of lentils stewed with foie gras and a couple of deftly-fried croquetas.

Dining went up another notch at stylish La Mar Salada, as the chef, who recently had consulted in Chicago, provided a lesson in paella preparation, then a dual feast: the traditional combo of rabbit and snails, followed by a modern seafood mixture. Tradition vied with contempo again in a pair of sweets: bread pudding with custard; and a cold soup of yogurt and white chocolate. In Pamplona,

vegetables rule the kitchen, and asparagus is the king. No argument from me, as we sipped a warm asparagus soup, followed by lightly-fried asparagus logs, both outstanding on the seven-course veggie-tasting menu at the farmer-cum-chef's Principe de Viana Murchante, star of the countryside.

The rain in Spain didn't get the memo. Drenched, we slogged through the hills surrounding the Senorio de Arunzano Estate. Spain's superstar architect, Raphael Monero, designed its elite winery. The wines proved equally stellar, climaxed by a pair of single-estate blends of tempranillo, merlot and cab, then a Chardonnay so elegant that some of Spain's royals chose it for their wedding. We lunched elegantly here on (thankfully) more asparagus, amid a gourmand's feast highlighted by rich, fatty—and, therefore, sublimely-tasty—suckling pig.

Think you can't eat another bite? Well, sit down in La Perla's cozy Cocina de Alex Mugica, and think again, or you'll regret it. Eggshells, delivered in cardboard cartons, delighted us with their supple filling of eggs scrambled with bacalao (salt cod)

and tomato. So did a return of asparagus, this time tempura-style, followed by a menestra (stew) of lamb with broad beans, peas, mushrooms, and potatoes. Strawberry soup flecked with (yes!) sweet green peppers, along with goats-milk ice cream, preceded another suave dessert, tocino de cielo, which was like flan on a cloud.

Rodero earns its Michelin star. In this intimate, modern setting, the traditional Spanish tortilla (an omelet of hashed browns) came ramped up with truffles. A cello-wrapped parcel of spring vegetables followed, mined with bacon, poached egg, and smoked sturgeon, whose aroma explodes as you open the package. Next, a cannelloni "pasta," created from pureed cauliflower, and baptized with a shower of red bean soup, tempted us. Flaky hake fish arrived, then a confit of suckling pig and a palate-freshener of mojito-lemon foam. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, fragrant strawberries stuffed with mascarpone capped off our meal.

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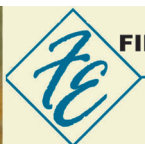
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## NORTHLAND NOTES

### The Main Club Hosts Weekend Gala

On November 19-21, The Main Club bar in Superior, Wisconsin, is hosting a weekend gala. This Northland mainstay is in its 28th year of serving the GLBT community.

The festivities kick off on November 19 with the annual Blue Moon Ball. It's a dress-up occasion like a GLBT prom, so you'll see lots of tuxes and gown, but people are welcome to wear whatever they find comfortable, including leather and Levi's. The food spread provided by the bar is legendary.

On November 20, Babylon is named for Bob Jansen, owner of The Main Club from the beginning, who has been the most prominent local gay activist for decades. The evening is a blacklight party featuring two DJs, go-go dancers in cages, and underground dance music. It's a complete departure from any other event that has happened at the bar.

Recovery, on November 21, is exactly what the name says. The bar opens at Noon. At around 1 PM, take part in Sex Toy Bingo, with Tracy calling in full drag.

#### The Main Club

1217 Tower Ave., Superior, WI  
 (715) 392-1756  
[www.mainclubsuperior.com](http://www.mainclubsuperior.com)

### Duluth Sauna Website Has New Look

Across Lake Superior in Downtown Duluth, the Duluth Sauna website at <[www.duluthsauna.com](http://www.duluthsauna.com)> has an awesome new look. The establishment has been providing a fun outlet for the Duluth-Superior community and surrounding region for nearly a century.

When you're in the Twin Ports for the November 19-21 weekend gala at The Main Club, check out the sleepover at the Duluth Sauna, which is open all evening Saturday night into Sunday morning.

#### Duluth Sauna

18 N. 1st Ave. E., Duluth  
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# CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

5

Friday, November

### FALL WINE DINNER: A BENEFIT FOR THE ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY.

Be part of a premier dining experience you long will remember. Enjoy exceptional courses prepared by eight of the top chefs in the Twin Cities, expertly paired with fine wines from The Cellars Wine & Spirits. This one-of-a-kind experience supports the programs and services of the Animal Humane Society. Seating is limited, and this gourmet gala is always sold-out, so make reservations early. 6:30 PM: Champagne and Hors d'oeuvres Reception. 7:30 PM: Six-Course Chef Dinner and Live Auction. The Saint Paul Hotel, 350 Market St., St. Paul. (763) 432-4842. <[www.animalhumanesociety.org](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org)>.



Hennepin Theatre Trust's *Spring Awakening*. Photo by Joan Marcus.

**SPRING AWAKENING.** Although it's fall, springing forth locally are two productions of *Spring Awakening* (see Nov. 6 calendar entry). Hamline University Theatre begins its 80th season with the premiere of Frank Wedekind's 1891 classic, newly translated from the original German by Nichole Bachman (Hamline Class of 2006), and adapted for the Hamline stage by her and director Jeff Turner. Exploring the relationships between youth and adulthood, freedom and structure, and the societal conventions binding them together, this provocative play (contains mature content) debuts on the Anne Simley Stage at Hamline. Through Nov. 13. Drew Fine Arts Center, Hamline University, 1530 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul. (651) 523-2905. <[tickets@hamline.edu](mailto:tickets@hamline.edu)>.

**TRETTER COLLECTION 10TH ANNIVERSARY.** Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the internationally-acclaimed Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota. An exhibit, *Saving Our Lives*, runs through February 5. The opening reception is on Nov. 5, 11:30 AM-2 PM, with a special presentation at Noon. A private fundraising dinner takes place on Nov. 6, 6:30 PM. A community open house on Nov. 13, 11 AM-2 PM, features the Tretter Time Capsule and Oral History Project. All events are at the University of Minnesota's Elmer L. Andersen Library. <<http://z.umn.edu/tretterevents>>.

6

Saturday, November

**SPRING AWAKENING.** Hennepin Theatre Trust presents this landmark musical, winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, as a special addition to its 2010-2011 Broadway Across America season. Based on the 1891 Frank Wedekind play, *Spring Awakening* is a stirring combination of sexuality, morality, and rock-and-roll. Set against the backdrop of a repressive and provincial Late-19th-Century Germany, this powerful celebration of youth and rebellion follows a group of young students, as they navigate through teenage self-discovery and coming-of-age anxiety. Contains strong language, partial nudity, and adult situations. Through Nov. 7. Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. 1 (800) 982-2787. <[www.hennepintheatretrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org)>.

7

Sunday, November

**DOGGONE EARLY DOGWALK.** This second annual, fast-paced, fun-filled morning benefits the animals at Home for Life's sanctuary. Peruse the booths with local dog-related items, get your dog's photo taken with Santa, and enter contests to win great prizes. Just \$50 per dog—collect pledges for your walk to help take care of Home for Life's residents. Preregistration required, limited to first 100 dogs. Mall of America, Nickelodeon Park. <[www.homeforlife.org](http://www.homeforlife.org)>.

11

Thursday, November

**SYMPTOM.** BodyCartography Project and Intermedia Arts present *Symptom*, featuring twin brothers, dancer Otto Ramstad and visual artist Emmett Ramstad, along with codirector Olive Bieringa and

composer Andrea Parkins. They examine the human body both as an object of study and as a producer of knowledge; investigate notions of social bodies versus biological bodies; and explore the gaps between seeing, knowing, and empathy. 7:30 PM. Through Nov. 14. Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 871-4444. <[www.intermediaarts.org](http://www.intermediaarts.org)>.

12

Friday, November

**BRETT FAVRE'S CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR II.** Break from the family fumbles of the holiday season, and cheer as the all-star holiday lineup takes the field for *Brett Favre's Christmas Spectacular II: The Second Coming*. Brave New Workshop spike the holiday season with seasonal favorites, plus all-new sketches and songs, to leave audiences laughing through the New Year. Through Jan. 29. Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 332-6620. <[www.bravenewworkshop.com](http://www.bravenewworkshop.com)>.

19

Friday, November

**TRIPLE ESPRESSO.** It's the irresistible story of a comedy trio going for their big break, only to have their hopes dashed over and over on the rocks of one magnificently funny failure after another. Hugh, Buzz, and Bobby reunite for a hilarious evening of music, magic, and megalLaughs in this audience favorite that appeals to everyone from age 6 to 106. It's a perfect group outing. Through Jan. 9. Music Box Theatre, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 424-1407. <[www.musicboxtheatre.org](http://www.musicboxtheatre.org)>.

20

Saturday, November

**ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE.** Minnesota Freedom Band presents its fall

concert, *All the World's a Stage*, featuring selections from popular operas and Broadway musicals, including *Candide*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Wicked*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. This concert marks the debut of new Principal Conductor Eric Dollerschell-Petry. 7 PM. South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S., Mpls. <[www.minnesotafreedomband.org](http://www.minnesotafreedomband.org)>.

## ONGOING

**EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL.** Minneapolis Musical Theatre presents *Evil Dead: The Musical*, a hilarious stage musical that takes all the elements of cult classic films *Evil Dead 1*, *Evil Dead 2*, and *Army of Darkness*, combining them to make one of the craziest theatrical experiences of all time. Five college students go to an abandoned cabin in the woods, and accidentally unleash an evil force that turns them into demons. It's all up to Ash and his trusty chainsaw to save the day. Through Nov. 7. Illusion Theater, 8th Fl., Hennepin Center for the Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <[www.aboutmmt.org](http://www.aboutmmt.org)>.



*Evita*. Photo by George Byron Griffiths

**EVITA** First Lady of Argentina Eva Perón was a legend in her time. An illegitimate country girl, she rose to become the most powerful woman Latin America had seen—a potent symbol of hope and change. Theater Latté Da takes a fresh look at this provocative telling of her brief and fascinating life. Through Nov. 14. Ordway Center, McKnight Theatre, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <[www.ordway.org](http://www.ordway.org)>.

**GEE'S BEND.** Park Square Theatre presents the regional premiere of playwright Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's *Gee's Bend*, directed by Austene Van. This epic yet intimate play, which spans more than 65 years, follows Sadie Pettway from her teenage years to her 70s; her sister, Nella; and their mother, Alice. As they persevere through segregation, family turmoil, and the battle for Civil Rights, quilting brings them comfort. Through Nov. 7. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <[www.parksquaretheatre.com](http://www.parksquaretheatre.com)>.

For additional calendar events, visit <[www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com)>.



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# Older and Wiser Girl

**I**t's 7 PM, and I'm on a business trip in a weird town in a bad hotel in inland Maryland—and, yes, I'm drinking. Someone is in the room next to me. I think we are the only two people in the hotel. I'm not sure why they planted us next to each other.

This person seems to be in either continual pain or ecstasy. It's hard to tell. All I know is that a low-grade moan has been emanating from the other side of the wall for the past five days.

Yes, five days, in the middle of nowhere (who knew that Maryland even had a middle?), drinkin' wine, and wishin' I were anywhere else.

For example, here's where I'd like to be: 26 years old, and full of hope and possibilities.

But instead, here I am: a middle-aged matron with a level head and lots of good advice to offer.

In a moment of desperation and loneliness, I sought out a local gay bar last night. I entered as I do at this age, full of confidence and a sense of self.

I took a seat at the bar, ordered a cocktail, and immediately attracted a flock of admirers. These younger gals were attracted not by my devilish good looks, but by my world-weary charm and faux sophistication. They were lined up, literally, for my take on their lives.

I spouted off nonstop, telling them exactly what I thought of their ridiculous life

choices: dating married women; falling in love with girls who aren't in love with them; or giving up a promising career in the insurance industry to write a novel.

I knew that as much as they might nod appreciatively and manically, once they left the bar, they wouldn't follow one damned bit of advice I gave them.

How did I know this? Because I once was that kid, desperately attracted to 40-something, stable women who, I thought, could save me from myself. Yet, they never wanted me.

Now, I know why. While 20-somethings are awfully cute, they are idiots. No offense, kids, just a fact of life. Enjoy your idiocy. It will be your favorite part of life.

Aging has a few benefits, too. One is that

you can blame weight gain on perimenopause. Another is that people tend to take you seriously—even if you aren't serious.

I am not serious, and no one ever should follow my advice, but I do have a certain presence. I'm tall; I have good posture; and I know how to hold and swirl a drink. Also, I can lift one eyebrow independent of the other, which is pretty impressive, and can be intimidating.

So, there I was, deep inside Maryland (OK, if I were in vaudeville, that would be a funny joke), surrounded by cute girls, and feeling mighty full of myself. Then, suddenly, a hand was on my thigh.

A kid I had been counseling was smart, an artist, and very cute. I caught sight of myself in the mirror behind the bar. It was as if I were looking at a stranger. If I were in my 20s, I'd be attracted to me, too. I had become everything I wanted at that age, including the inability to be attracted to anyone 20 years younger than myself.

I turned to the kid, and said, "You'll make plenty of mistakes, but I'm not one of them."

I gave her a peck on the cheek, and told her to stay away from married ladies. I left the bar, and returned to my stupid hotel—alone, smug, and knowing that I wouldn't have to get rid of some stranger in the morning.

It's good to be old. **JENNIFER PARELLO**

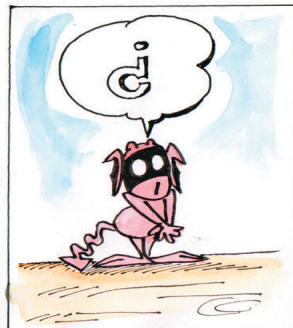
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# Bossa Nova

October 16 was Bosses' Day, a national commemoration that annually sparks quite a heated debate.

On the one side are those people who believe bosses truly deserve a day of recognition and praise. On the other are those who slightly disagree: They believe bosses should sit and spin on Satan's scepter.

From where I sit, it's a tough call. Without question, there are bosses who are just plain wretched human beings. Still, I'm not saying these individuals should necessarily spin on anyone's spiky scepter.

That would be completely inappropriate until their employees have first had the opportunity to express exactly how they feel, perhaps in a nonverbal manner that involves hurling office equipment or dog poo.

Luckily, I've never had a truly horrid boss. Instead, I've had the good fortune of working for a series of people who were simply psychotic.

At my first job, for example, I reported to a woman who routinely stormed into the building, greeted no one, and then loudly slammed her door.

Based on the noises emanating from her office, it appeared she would then spend the next two to three hours participating in a diatribe, referring to all of us as "F-ing-blanking-douche-sluts. Or something.

Whatever it was, it usually ended about Noon, when she would come out of her office, and proceed to behave in a most unpleasant manner.

Although the woman was clearly, to use a quaint English phrase, "out of her bloody marbles," at least she was predictable, which was more than could be said about my next boss.

You just never knew what would set this guy off, and cause him to ask any number of higher rational questions, such as: "Why do you want me to go blind?"

On the day this particular question was directed toward me, all I really wanted was to take his picture for a company brochure. When I politely requested that he take off his sunglasses so he'd look less like a person directly involved in a Colombian drug cartel, the guy had what mental health professionals would most likely describe as a "total hissy."

For the next 20 minutes, I had the pleasure of not hearing anything remotely re-

sembling a lucid thought. I did, however, walk away with the clear understanding that my boss's ability to see was in some way tied to the matter of national security—and I must immediately update my résumé.

At my next job—yes, you're correct in assuming that my general career philosophy is "never stay anywhere long enough to do any actual work, or qualify for benefits"—I was a boss.

This was quite an honor, considering it occurred at an organization that carefully selected its managers by determining who, at day's end, had not yet quit or been fired.

It was there that I learned being a boss isn't necessarily easy, and that it may well be warranted to give these individuals a day of recognition, along with a limitless supply of pharmaceuticals.

People tend to forget that bosses often have to perform unpleasant tasks. For example, I had an assistant who was devoted to all aspects of her job, except those that involved answering phones, typing, filing, or doing anything else that conceivably could be construed as part of her actual job description.

Obviously, the woman had to go. I felt badly, though, and told her she could stay a couple of weeks, during which time she could seek other employment opportunities.

She thanked me by spending the next 10 days stealing office supplies, and telling everyone that I'd already "boinked" the entire marketing department.

At this same job, I was forced to do something even worse. After the board of directors, acting out of deep concern for the cash value of their many shares of stock, decided that layoffs were in order, I had to let go of one of my most-valued, hardest-working employees.

Fortunately, about three months later, I was able to rehire her.

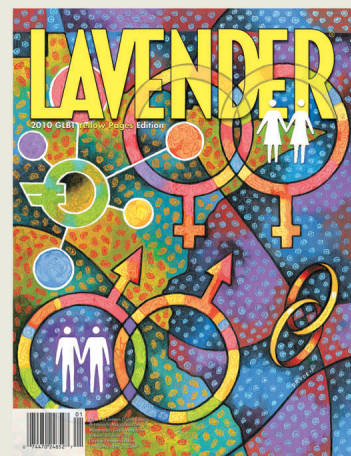
Unfortunately, about four months after that, I had to lay her off again.

Although we haven't been in touch for a while, I'm guessing that she had a few thoughts about me on October 16.

And, consider the source here, but I bet they were very, very warm thoughts involving a spiky scepter.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. **JULIE DAFYDD**



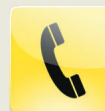
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# Need A Tenant

## Dear Ms. Behavior:

A few years back, my wife, Randi, had an affair with an old friend of ours, Tammy. We somehow managed to work through it, and we all have stayed friends.

Recently, Randi and I purchased a house with a mortgage that's just a little over our heads. The rental apartment in the basement was supposed to make up the difference. After advertising it for several months, we have had only one person interested in renting: our old friend, Tammy.

I keep telling myself that their fling is long over, and we need the money badly. Besides, Tammy is good with taking care of our dogs.

I am apprehensive, however, because Tammy does not have a girlfriend yet, and I think she still may have a thing for my wife. However, Randi and I have discussed it. She swears it is a thing of the past, and she has no interest in Tammy.

If we go for it, I actually could install cameras before Tammy moves in. My wife

never would know.

Please advise.

—NEED A TENANT

## Dear Need A Tenant:

On the surface, it seems like a crazy idea to let Randi's old secret lover move in.

Wouldn't you be setting yourself up for a whole new level of lezzie drama?

However, you and Randi have endured together for years since this betrayal. It's possible that particular flame—the cheating one—really may have burned out.

Just think of how many exes the average lesbian has.

One couldn't possibly hold a torch for all of them without creating a forest fire, could one?

So, if you believe what Randi tells you, and you're a forgiving person, you could try letting Tammy sleep beneath you for a while.

As strange as it may seem to have Tammy living in the basement, in actuality, your home isn't the most likely place for reigniting the

old spark anyway. Randi and Tammy could hook up more easily in hotels, parked cars, and elevators without stirring your suspicion.

If you believe you have nothing to worry about, you don't need the cameras. If you suspect it really isn't over, you probably won't let Tammy move in anyway—unless you're just itching to film lesbian porn, which is inadvisable for several reasons:

(1) The lighting in your basement is probably bad.

(2) So much free porn already is available online that you never will make any money or get famous.

(3) Watching your wife get it on with Tammy probably will annoy you.

## Dear Ms. Behavior:

After a year of messy addiction (crystal meth and other drugs), and acting out badly, my boyfriend, Terry, finally spent some time in rehab. He now is doing a lot better.

Terry's job involves traveling to New

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York, where he typically gets lonely, hooks up with someone, and then goes off on a drug binge.

After a leave of absence from work, Terry is being pressured to go back to his job. He promises me that things are different now, and that he has no desire to do drugs.

I'm afraid he'll be tempted once he starts traveling again, which is a requirement of his job. I don't know how to protect Terry or myself.

How can I keep Terry from hooking up with guys, and getting back into drugs?

—WAYNE

**Dear Wayne:**

You really can't "keep him" from doing anything, but Terry is most likely to succeed in staying away from drugs (and superfluous sex) if he changes his habits.

Eliminating travel would be one way to help the odds, but if that's not realistic, given the dismal employment outlook, help Terry to find support in the places he goes.

This may mean seeking other sources of entertainment (e.g., theater, film, fitness, museums) instead of crystal meth parties. Of all the places in the world, Terry won't lack alternative forms of recreation in Manhattan.

If Terry's rehab emphasized going to 12-step meetings, it undoubtedly will help, as will spending time with friends who don't do drugs. He also can connect to meetings at home, so that he can store up his resources before he hits the road.

Meanwhile, you might want to check out an Al-Anon meeting, so that you can store up yours, too. **MERYL COHN**

© 2010 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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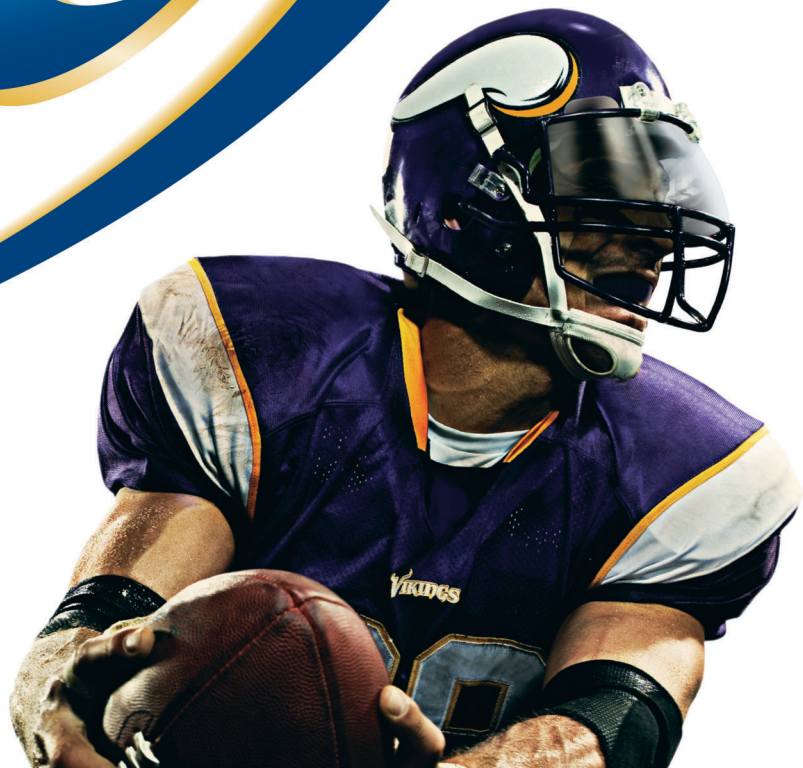
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